

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY AF:WESCHAUFLELE,JR.

APPROVED BY AF:WESCHAUFLELE,JR.

S/S-RGAMBLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 288872

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR

FOL REPEAT GENEVA 9404 ACTION SECSTATE DTD NOV 24.

QUOTE

S E C R E T GENEVA 9404

NODIS

FOR SCHAUFLELE FROM WISNER

DEPT PASS LONDON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR RH UK

SUBJ: RHODESIA CONFERENCE: NO CONCLUSION YET

1. EDWARD MDHLOVU, NKOMO'S CLOSE ASSISTANT, CALLED
ON ME AT 5:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME TO BRING ME UP TO DATE
ON THE LATEST ROUND OF TALKS BETWEEN NKOMO AND MUGABE.

2. ACCORDING TO NDHLOVU, THE MUGABE DELEGATION
FAILED TO APPEAR THIS MORNING AT 10:00, ASKED FOR A
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POSTPONEMENT UNTIL 11:00 AND DID NOT ARRIVE UNTIL

3:00. MDHLOVU CAME TO ME DIRECTLY FROM THE MEETING.

3. MDHLOVU SAID THAT THE MUGABE DELEGATION WHICH INCLUDED MUGABE, GUMBO, TADERERE, MUDZI AND TAKERE SAID THAT THEY COULD NOT ACCEPT THE LATEST BRITISH STATEMENT BECAUSE THEY DID NOT HAVE A "MANDATE" TO ACCEPT ANY STATEMENT WHICH DID NOT MENTION DECEMBER 1, 1977 AS THE DATE OF INDEPENDENCE. WHEN ASKED WHAT THEY MEANT BY MANDATE, MUGABE'S GROUP WAS VAGUE. MUGABE HAD VERY LITTLE TO SAY DURING THE MEETING AND HIS SUB-ORDINATES DID MOST OF THE TALKING. THEY TOLD NKOMO THAT THEY HAD TO CHECK WITH THEIR COLLEAGUES IN AFRICA BEFORE THEY COULD CHANGE THEIR POSITION.

4. NKOMO UNDERSTANDS, ACCORDING TO NDHKOVU, THERE HAS BEEN FIERCE DEBATE WITHIN THE MUGABE DELEGATION AND THAT OPINIONS ARE BADLY DIVIDED. SOME MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION IN PRIVATE HAVE ARGUED THAT THE ZANU GROUP SHOULD ACCEPT THE LATEST BRITISH FORMULA. NDHLOVU DOES NOT KNOW HOW THE MUGABE GROUP SPLIT IN THESE INTERNAL DISCUSSIONS, NOR DOES HE KNOW WHO WILL BE SENT BACK TO AFRICA TO CONSULT TONGAGARA AND COMPANY. HE GUESSED THAT "THOSE WHO LEAVE MAY NOT RETURN."

5. NKOMO HAD ALREADY INDICATED TO THE BRITISH HE WOULD ACCEPT THEIR LATEST STATEMENT WHICH HE CONSIDERS TO BE A VICTORY. HIS SUBORDINATES IN GENEVA AND AFRICA AGREE WITH HIM.

6. AS A FIRST STEP, NKOMO PLANS TO APPEAL TO THE FRONT LINE REPRESENTATIVES WITH THE HOPE THAT THEY WILL MAKE A LAST ATTEMPT TO CONVERT THE MUGABE GROUP TO HIS POSITION. NDHLOVU WAS PESSIMISTIC. "THESE CHAPS ARE NAIVE AND ARE NOT PREPARED TO LISTEN TO ANY ARGUMENTS."

7. NKOMO HAS NOT MADE UP HIS MIND WHAT HE WILL DO IF MUGABE AND HIS ASSOCIATES STAND FIRM. HE IS TENTATIVELY THINKING OF TELLING THE BRITISH THAT HE ACCEPTS THEIR STATEMENT AND WILL UNDERTAKE DIS-
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CUSSIONS OF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT AND THE CONFERENCE WORK PROGRAM. IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE FRAMEWORK OF PATRIOTIC FRONT UNITY, NKOMO WILL KEEP THE RESIDUAL MUGABE DELEGATION INFORMED OF EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS IN DIS-
CUSSIONS WITH THE BRITISH.

8. I ASKED NDHLOVU HOW HE WOULD LIKE ME TO REPORT NKOMO'S PLANS TO WASHINGTON. NDHLOVU THOUGHT FOR A

WHILE AND THEN SAID HE WISHED TO TALK TO NKOMO AND
GIVE ME A PRECISE ANSWER. HE WILL CALL TOMORROW,
NOVEMBER 25.

9. I HAVE CHECKED WITH THE BRITISH AND THEY HAVE NO
REPORTS ON THE OUTCOME OF THE MEETING.BRUNGWRT

UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, INDEPENDENCE, INTERIM GOVERNMENT, CAT-B, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETING DELEGATIONS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, NATIO NALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE288872
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WESCHAUFLE,JR.
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: N760008-0490
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761114/aaaaalui.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by woolfhd>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA CONFERENCE: NO CONCLUSION YET
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, RH, UK, (NDLOVU, EDWARD), (NKOMO, JOSHUA), (MUGABE, ROBERT)
To: LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006